



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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March 29, 2016

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

1-P March 29, 2016

LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS
AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO
THE SAN GABRIEL CONSERVATION CORPS FOR
THE WHITTIER NARROWS TREE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate Specified Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps for tree planting at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Tree Planting Project at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this letter and in the record of the project.
2. Allocate Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps for the Whittier Narrows Trees Replacement Project.
3. Authorize the Acting Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Acting Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps when applicable conditions have been met; and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to

guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

4. Authorize the Acting Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Acting Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to close the grant with San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps and reallocate and award remaining grant funds, whose cumulative total is not to exceed \$250,000, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the Whittier Narrows Trees Replacement Project, in the event that project design and permitting processes have made insufficient progress for construction to begin by December 1, 2016.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, to the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps (SGVCC) for the Whittier Narrows Trees Replacement Project (Project).

The proposed Project involves tree planting at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, including removal of ailing trees and planting of new ones. The estimated total project cost is \$250,000 and would be fully funded with the recommended Specified Excess Funds.

It is recommended that the Acting Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Acting Director), in his capacity as Acting Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant to SGVCC when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, if applicable. It is further recommended that the Acting Director be authorized to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

The proposed Project is a high priority for the community and time is of the essence in its completion. As a result, it is also recommended that, if the Project's design and permitting processes have made insufficient progress for construction to begin by December 1, 2016, then the Acting Director be authorized to close the SGVCC grant and reallocate and award remaining grant funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for completion of the Project. In the event that funds are reallocated and awarded to DPR for the Project, the cumulative total amount for both SGVCC and DPR grants is not to exceed \$250,000.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by enhancing health-promoting activities in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants, in the amount of \$250,000, is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District's portion of Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. Both SGVCC and DPR have met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended Excess Fund grants will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for Specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Acting Director would be authorized to award grants to the various grantees when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. RPOSD is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which includes removal of ailing trees and planting of new ones, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(h) and 15304 (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1(j) and 4(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project provides for maintenance of existing landscaping and installation of new landscaping.

The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project's records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Acting Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grants have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

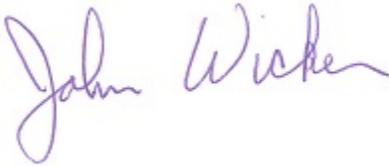
The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD. The

recommended Project will promote healthy activities in public spaces in the First Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Programs Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN WICKER

Acting Director

JW:JB:WRO:tb

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors